

From: Pamela Darrah
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 10:10am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a concerned citizen, voter, taxpayer and long time user of Microsoft products, I would like to express my opinion that there has been quite enough litigation. As a consumer, I do not feel that I have been harmed by Microsoft. I clearly remember my first computer (before the IBM PC and DOS) and have been involved with computers both professionally and personally since that time. Despite all the complaints from those who don't understand what computing was like 20 years ago, I firmly believe that Microsoft products have improved things for consumers. It is very unlikely that there would be computers in so many homes, schools and libraries that are used by non-high tech individuals without the products and vision Microsoft has provided. There has always been choice in software - people have chosen to use Microsoft products. To this day there are still alternatives. If I want to I can run a Linux, Unix or Apple operating system - with that there are several competitors to Office that use the same file formats so they can be exchanged with other users. As far as I am concerned as a consumer, that IS competition.

Please finish this settlement and let everyone get back to writing better software instead of spending way too much time and money in courtrooms. (If you really want to look at anti-competitive behavior - investigate AOL!)

Sincerely,

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